

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 20 cancelled.

21. (Currently Amended) A multi-mode mobile station comprising:

a radio frequency (RF) module capable of accessing a first radio system using a preferred radio protocol and further capable of accessing a second radio system using a less-preferred radio protocol; and

processing circuitry associated with said RF module capable of determining the quality of first control channel signals received from said first radio system and determining the quality of second control channel signals received from said second radio system, wherein

said processing circuitry determines the quality of said first control channel signals by determining a number of control messages received during a predetermined time period in a first control channel in which said first control channel signals are transmitted and further determining if said number of received control messages exceeds a minimum threshold value, and

said processing circuitry, in response to a determination that the quality of said first control channel signals is sufficient to prevent said multi-mode mobile station from losing access to said first radio system, further determines from the quality of said first control channel signals whether said first radio system is able to provide an optimum signal quality.

22. (Previously Presented) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said processing circuitry, in response to a determination that said first radio system is not able to provide an optimum signal quality, determines from the quality of said second control channel signals whether said second radio system is able to provide a better radio service than said first radio system.

23. (Previously Presented) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim 22, wherein said processing circuitry, in response to a determination that said second radio system is able to provide a better radio service than said first radio system, causes said RF module to access said second radio system instead of said first radio system.

24. (Previously Presented) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim 23, wherein said first control channel signals comprise at least one of: 1) pilot channel signals associated with said first radio system and 2) paging channel signals associated with said first radio system.

25. (Previously Presented) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim 24, wherein said second control channel signals comprise at least one of: 1) pilot channel signals associated with said second radio system and 2) paging channel signals associated with said second radio system.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim ~~[[26]]~~ 21, wherein said processing circuitry further determines the quality of said first control channel signals by determining a bit error rate associated with said received control messages.

28. (Previously Presented) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim 27, wherein said preferred radio protocol is a digital radio protocol and said less-preferred radio protocol is an analog radio protocol.

29. (Previously Presented) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim 28, wherein said preferred radio protocol is code division multiple access (CDMA) protocol.

30. (Previously Presented) The multi-mode mobile station as set forth in Claim 28, wherein said less-preferred radio protocol is Advanced Mobile Phone System (AMPS) protocol.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a multi-mode mobile station capable of accessing a first radio system using a preferred radio protocol and capable of accessing a second radio system using a less-preferred radio protocol, the method comprising the steps of:

determining the quality of first control channel signals received from the first radio system by determining a number of control messages received during a predetermined time period in a first control channel in which the first control channel signals are transmitted and determining if the number of received control messages exceeds a minimum threshold value;

determining the quality of second control channel signals received from the second radio system; and

in response to a determination that the quality of the first control channel signals is sufficient to prevent the multi-mode mobile station from losing access to the first radio system, determining from the quality of the first control channel signals whether the first radio system is able to provide an optimum signal quality.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 31, further comprising the step, in response to a determination that the first radio system is not able to provide an optimum signal quality, of determining from the quality of the second control channel signals whether the second radio system is able to provide a better radio service than the first radio system.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 32, further comprising the step, in response to a determination that the second radio system is able to provide a better radio service than the first radio system, of causing the RF module to access the second radio system instead of the first radio system.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the first control channel signals comprise at least one of: 1) pilot channel signals associated with the first radio system and 2) paging channel signals associated with the first radio system.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the second control channel signals comprise at least one of: 1) pilot channel signals associated with the second radio system and 2) paging channel signals associated with the second radio system.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 31, further comprising the step of determining the quality of the first control channel signals by determining a bit error rate associated with the received control messages.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein the preferred radio protocol is a digital radio protocol and the less-preferred radio protocol is an analog radio protocol.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein the preferred radio protocol is code division multiple access (CDMA) protocol.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein the less-preferred radio protocol is Advanced Mobile Phone System (AMPS) protocol.